

REMARKS

This is a response to a final Office Action mailed December 29, 2006. Claims 7 and 12-20 are pending. Claims 12 and 13-16 have been amended. Claims 21-23 have been added. No new matter has been added to the application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 7 and 17-20.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification due to a lack of support for the language in claim 12 with respect to the lugs extending across a “substantial portion” of the track as set forth in claim 12. Applicants have deleted the language in claim 12 objected to by the Examiner and inserted therefor language similar to that in claim 7 stating that the traction lugs extend “across substantially all of a width of the base.”

REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,980,001 to *Rubel*. *Rubel* discloses ground penetrating traction studs. In response, Applicant has amended claim 12 to further clarify the nature of the traction lugs of the present invention. Specifically, the traction lugs have been identified as extending across substantially all of the width of the base. The lugs have also been defined as being of unitary construction with the base. Both of these elements are in contrast to the *Rubel* steel studs that have small faces that do not extend across substantially all of the width of the base, either alone or in combination with other studs. Furthermore, these studs are not formed integrally with the flexible snowmobile track but rather are fastened thereto. They are of a differing material from the track.


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NEW CLAIMS 21-23

Applicant has added new claims 21-23. These new claims are likewise patentable over the art. Claim 21 defines traction lug faces that extend across a majority of the width of the base. This language is supported in the text of the application and in the drawings showing faces of the lugs extending across a majority of the width of the base. Claim 22 is further patentable as it defines the lugs as being formed unitary with the outer side of the base.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 12-16 along with allowance of new claims 21-23. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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